

Amendments to the Specification

The paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14 has been amended to read as follows:

For example, there is evidence pointing to epidural adhesions as possible factors contributing to failed back surgery. Epidural fibrosis may occur following spinal injuries or as a post-operative surgical complication. The dense scar formation on dura and around nerve roots has previously been described as the "laminotomy membrane," and has been implicated in rendering subsequent spine operations technically more difficult. In a laminectomy procedure, for example, the thin membrane of the present invention is desirably inserted between the dural sleeve and the paravertebral musculature post laminotomy and conforms readily to block exposed marrow elements of the laminae. Imposition of the membrane material as a barrier between the paravertebral musculature and the epidural space is believed to reduce cellular trafficking and vascular invasion into the epidural space from the overlying muscle and adjacent exposed cancellous bone. Moreover, tests have shown that the present thin membrane does not appear to interfere with normal posterior wound healing while at the same time providing adhesion-inhibition by inhibiting the unwanted adhesions and scarring.